

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00445 191542Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /015 W

-----192257Z 086711 /64

R 191526Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3377

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 0445

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: USE OF "LATIN AMERICA" IN USIS STORIES

1. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR TRANSMISSION BY USINFO P 172049Z MAY 77 OF ARTICLE IN MAY 17 WIRELESS FILE ARF-38 ENTITLED "AMHERST COLLEGE GLEE CLUB TO TOUR 11 LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS" AND WILL PUT IT TO GOOD USE IN ADVANCE PUBLICITY FOR GLEE CLUB'S APPEARANCE IN PARAMARIBO. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO CALL WRITERS' ATTENTION TO USE, IN HEADLINE AND REPEATELDY IN ARTICLE, OF TERM "LATIN AMERICAN" IN REFERRING TO COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES LATIN. THIS APPLIES EMPHATICALLY TO SURINAN AND, WE SUSPECT, TO GUYANA AND TRINIDAD, TOO.

2. SURINAM WAS SETTLED BY ENGLISHMEN AND DUTCHMEN, WHO IN TURN AND OVER A PERIOD OF CENTURIES BROUGHT IN AFRICAN SLAVES AND INDENTURED WORKERS FROM INDIA AND INDONESIA. THE CULTURE HAS NOT BEEN INFLUENCED IN ANY NOTICEABLE WAY BY SPAIN OR PORTUGAL, BUT OVERWHELMINGLY BY HOLLAND, AFRICA, INDIA, JAVA AND TO A LESSER DEGREE ENGLAND. THIS COUNTRY IS PART OF SOUTH AMERICA, AND AMERICAN REPUBLICS, THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE OR ANY SUCH SIMILAR NEUTRAL CHARACTERIZATION, BUT IT IS NOT A PART OF "LATIN" AMERICA, AND TO LUMP IT WITH "LATIN" AMERICA IN OFFICAL US GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY REQUIRES EITHER LABORIOUS SAN-  
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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00445 191542Z

ITIZING TO REMOVE "LATIN" WHEREVER IT APPEARS OR EMBARASSMENT WHEN SURINAMERS POINT OUT THAT THE USG DOES NOT SEEM TO KNOW WHAT THEIR COUNTRY IS LIKE.

3. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT "LATIN AMERICA" IS A TERM DEEPLY INGRAINED IN OUR OWN CONSCIOUSNESS, WE NEVERTHELEAS ASK THAT USIA WRITERS TAKE CARE TO AVOID THIS TERM AND TO USE MORE

APPROPRIATE REGIONAL EXPRESSIONS WHEN REFERRING TO A GROUP  
INCLUDING SURINAM.  
ZURHELLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, LITERATURE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2449979  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** USE OF "LATIN AMERICA" IN USIS STORIES  
**TAGS:** SCUL, OEXC, NS, US, AMHERST COLLEGE GLEE CLUB  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009